

## Message Text

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ACTION MMO-02

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SS-15 SP-02 PER-01 ABF-01

NSC-05 OMB-01 DODE-00 SY-05 TRSE-00 /045 W

-----060824 121530Z /53

P 121502Z SEP 77

FM AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3598

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE PRAGUE 2580

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: AODE

SUBJECT: EVALUTAION BY CHIEF OF MISSION OF PERSONNEL LEVELS

REF STATE 201122

1. PERSONNEL LEVELS AND STAFFING PRIORITIES HAVE BEEN THE SUBJECT OF, OR AN IMPORTANT COMPONENT OF, A NUMBER OF RECENT COMMUNICATIONS FROM THIS POST: A) PRAGUE 2533, B) A-63 SEPT 2, 1977, C) OM JUNE 29, 1977 TO VERNE ST. MARS, CHIEF A/SY/OPS REQUESTING A RESIDENT SEABEE, AND D) PRAGUE 0805 TO MENTION A FEW.

2. I BELIEVE THAT OVER THE YEARS THIS POST HAS EVOLVED TO THE POINT WHERE WE NOW HAVE THE PROPER MIX OF SKILLS AND FUNCTIONS TO CARRY OUT OUR NECESSARY PROGRAMS WITH THE BAREST MINIMUM OF PERSONNEL. HOWEVER, TO ENTER INTO THE SPIRIT OF THIS EXERCISE AND NOT SOUND NEGATIVE, WE OFFER THE FOLLOWING FOR CONSIDERATION:

3. FIFTEEN PERCENT REDUCTION: THIS WOULD REQUIRE THE ELIMINATION OF AT LEAST TWO AMERICAN POSITIONS. WE WOULD MOST RELUCTANTLY CHOOSE TO SACRIFICE AN ASSISTANT TO THE MILITARY ATTACHE AND A CONSULAR OFFICER. ELIMINATION OF AN ASSISTANT TO THE MILITARY ATTACHE WOULD ADD TO BURDENS ALREADY FACED BY THE EMBASSY DAO,  
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WHICH IS AUTHORIZED SIX POSITIONS BUT IS CURRENTLY MANNING ONLY TM CDUCTION WOULD UNDERCUT THE EMBASSY DATT'S EFFORTS TO COLLECT INFORMATION AND REPORT EFFECTIVELY ON: A) OVERALL WARSAW PACT DEPLOYMENTS IN THE FORWARD AREA OF NATO-WP CONFRONTATION, B) EXPANDING CZECHOSLOVAK AND SOVIET MILITARY CAPABILITIES IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA--ISSUES OF INTEREST IN BOTH MBFR AND CSCE, AND C) THE GROWING CZECHOSLOVAK ARMS INDUSTRY. THE LOSS OF A CONSULAR

OFFICER WOULD ALSO BE UNACCEPTABLE BECAUSE OF THE GROWING IMPORTANCE OF CONSULAR WORK DUE TO REQUIREMENTS IN CSCE FINAL ACT FOLLOW-UP, INCREASED CONGRESSIONAL INTEREST IN CONSULAR SERVICES TO U.S. CITIZENS, INCREASED NIV APPLICATIONS, AND AN INCREASE IN SOCIAL SECURITY BENEFICIARIES. IT IS WELL KNOWN THAT CONSULAR WORK AT THIS POST, AS IN THE REST OF EASTERN EUROPE, IS MORE COMPLEX AND TIME-CONSUMING THAN ELSEWHERE. IN ADDITION, A REDUCTION IN THE CONSULAR SECTION WOULD SEVERLY RESTRICT OUR ROTATIONAL PROGRAM. UNDER THESE CIRCUMSTANCES, I STRONGLY BELIEVE THAT A FIFTEEN PERCENT REDUCTION IS NOT RPT NOT A REALISTIC OPTION IN OUR CASE.

4. FIVE PERCENT REDUCTION. THIS COULD BE ACHIEVED BY ABOLISHING THE ASSISTANT TO MIL ATT POSITION ONLY. WHILE MOST UNDESIRABLE, THIS REDUCTION WOULD CAUSE THE LEAST DISRUPTION TO OUR BASIC PROGRAMS AND OBJECTIVES.  
BYRNE

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
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**Concepts:** REPORTS, PERSONNEL, MISSION CHIEFS  
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**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
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**Reference:** 77 STATE 201122  
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**Subject:** EVALUTAION BY CHIEF OF MISSION OF PERSONNEL LEVELS  
**TAGS:** AODE, APER  
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**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
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